



CFMS NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marcia Goetz

Hello Fellow Rock Friends,

Here we are about to enter November and we're finally getting a little bit of a cool down, especially in the evening hours. The leaves will be turning red, orange, yellow and brown just like some of the jaspers that are found or some of the other lovely rocks like a fiery fire agate.

The second weekend in November is our annual meeting in Visalia and I hope everyone can make it there. Besides the Saturday Directors Meeting there are also some fun things to do like the Friday night Cracker Barrel and the banquet on Saturday evening. The last couple of years we have had a lot of people at the banquet and that has been nice to see. Pat has asked for the Committee Reports for the Director's Meeting Packet to be in to her by October 25th so she can get them printed for the meeting and I hope you can get them to her. Otherwise, you have to bring your own committee copies with you for distribution at the meeting. Pat has info on the reservations available in this bulletin.

Marcia Goetz



On the Inside

Mark Your Calendar.....	2
CFMS Insurance & Website Contacts6.	2
Donations.	2
My Favorite Things.	2
Fall Business Meeting.	3
Junior Activities.	3
Shows of the Future—CFMS Needs You. ...	4
CFMS Scholarship Report.	4
Nominating Committee Report.	5
2025 Camp Paradise.....	5
In Memoriam.	5
2 Easy Ways to Support AFMS.	6
All American Club Yearbook.....	6
Give Me a Job—Please!!	7
Show Dates..	8-9
Public Relations—All Year Long.	9
Art of Being a Meaningful Historian.	10
Officer and Chairmen Roster.	insert

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Nov 5. Deadline for Dec Newsletter
Dec 5. Deadline for Jan Newsletter
Nov 8-10. Fall Business Meeting Visalia

CFMS INSURANCE CONTACTS

McDaniel Insurance Services
PO Box 1294, Ojai, CA 93024
Tel (805) 646-9948 or (800) 400-7288
Fax (805) 646-9976; email: pmcdaniel@mc-d-ins.com
Web Site: www.mcdanielinsuranceservices.com

Ellen Ferrell
1392 Bouquet Dr. #A
Upland, CA 91786-3358
(727) 512-0381
ellenbf2007@aol.com

CFMS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

CFMS Newsletter is published 11 times a year by the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Subscription: \$10 per year, January through December. Newsletters are also available for download on the CFMS website. No password required.

CFMS WEBSITE

The CFMS website is accessible at www.cfmsinc.org
Editors are invited to download articles for their bulletins from this website. Be sure to cite the source.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the newsletter is the 5th day of the month prior to the month of publication. Articles should be sent to the editor at bplarue@earthlink.net. "Snail mail"? Please send to the CFMS PO Box 1657, Rialto, CA 92377-1657. Articles without a byline are written by the editor.

DONATIONS

Donations to any of the funds administered by CFMS and/or AFMS are tax deductible under the rules governing tax exempt organizations which are 501(c)(3). Your cancelled check or receipt is considered to be proof of your donation for purposes of filing your federal tax return. If a personal donation is \$250 or more, a letter attesting to that amount is also required. Member clubs and individuals are encouraged to donate to any of the following:

- CFMS Scholarship Fund
- CFMS Endowment Fund
- CFMS General Fund
- Diedrick Memorial Scholarship Fund
- AFMS Scholarship Foundation
- AFMS Endowment Fund
- Burns Memorial Camp Fund (benefits Earth Science Studies)
- Facilities Development Fund

Your donations should be sent to:
Pat LaRue, Exec. Sec/Treas
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Receipts and any supporting documents will be forwarded on to the committee member responsible for acknowledgment. Please make all checks payable to CFMS or AFMS as appropriate and note the fund in the memo section.

MY FAVORITE THINGS
(With apologies to Julie Andrews)
By Rose Alene McArthur
8th Place AFMS Adult Poetry 2008
From *Boulder Buster*, 7/2007 via *AFMS Newsletter*,
2/24

Montana agates with many branched mosses
Breccias fractured by tectonic causes
Friday Plume agates like white angel wings
These are a few of my favorite things
Green ocean jasper with little white dashes
Square pyrite crystals with brassy hued flashes
Fire opal beads in luxurious strings
These are a few of my favorite things

When a tax bites
When a remark stings
When I'm feeling mad
I simply bring out my favorite things
And all of them make me glad

CFMS FALL BUSINESS MEETING

By Pat LaRue, Exec Sec/Treas

The annual Fall Business Meeting and election of 2025 Officers will be held November 8-10, 2024 at the Wyndham-Visalia, off Hwy 198 in Visalia, CA. For those who have not been to this location in the past, take Hwy 198 exit east from Hwy 99. You will see the hotel located just south of the first off ramp past the airport.

Room reservations can be made by phone at **(559) 651-5000**. To receive the special CFMS rate of \$102 per night, tell them you are with CFMS. Cut-off date for this price is **October 25, 2024**. The group code is 110724CAF. The first night's deposit or guarantee by credit card must accompany your reservation. Do not make reservations through the website; call them directly.

An informal **Cracker Barrel** will be held **Friday** evening at **7:30 p.m.** As in the past, hotel policy forbids our bringing snack foods to any of the meetings. The **Business Meeting** will be called to order on Saturday, **November 9 at 9 a.m.** Join us at the **Banquet** that Saturday evening. The incoming president will have a brief meeting of the 2025 committees Sunday morning. Time to be announced.

Banquet Menu

Marinated and Grilled 6 Oz Breast of Chicken Served in a White Wine Sauce with Lemon, Shallots and Peppercorns
Roasted Red Potatoes
Baby Carrots
Mixed Baby Greens Salad
Dinner Rolls with Butter
New York Style Cheesecake

\$45 tax and gratuity included.

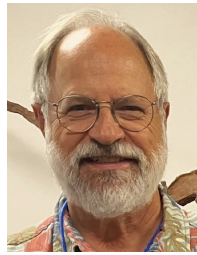
Vegetarian and gluten free options available upon request.

A cocktail server will be available to take your drink orders and deliver them to the room.

Make banquet reservations by November 1, 2024.

Mail your check payable to CFMS to:

CFMS
PO Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Jim Brace-Thompson, CFMS Jr.
Activities Chair

Still Encouraging Kids to Crack the News!

As I reported last month, as part of the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program, Dennis Gertenbach puts together *Crack the News*, a newsletter “for kids and teens written by kids and teens.” You can check out previous issues on the AFMS website at <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>.

Dennis continues to solicit material for the next issue, be it a hobby-related article, poem, cartoon, photo, or drawing, or even a rockhound joke, including content that’s already appeared in a club newsletter. This opportunity is open to any kids under 18 years of age who belong to a federation-affiliated society, and full details on how to go about submitting material may be found on the web link noted above. If you have questions about content or procedures, send them to youth@amfed.org. See the accompanying photo for the George the Geode badge kids can earn! (Photo credit: AFMS website)



SEE YOU IN VISALIA

CFMS SHOWS OF THE FUTURE CFMS NEED YOU!

By Susan Chaisson-Walblom, Show Consultant–South

We are **still** currently looking for Host Clubs/Societies for 2025, 2026, 2027 California Federation of Mineralogical Societies annual Show & Convention. Each year the CFMS Show & Convention travels around the state to different venues. Ideally the annual Show & Convention would be held one year in Southern California and the next in Northern California and so on.

The Federation Show itself is not that different than hosting your own club show. In addition, you get to host the Cracker Barrel, Directors Meeting, Board Meeting, Competitive Exhibits and Awards Dinner.

Hosting the CFMS State Show & Convention can be a very rewarding experience. It can help you grow your membership, earn extra income for your club and help build a returning vendor base for your own club's annual shows.

Please contact me for further information on hosting a future CFMS Show & Convention at slchaisson@yahoo.com.

CFMS SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

By Diane Cook, 2nd VP

At the 2024 CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention Plaques were awarded to the Scholarship Honorees and one of the scholarship awardees introduced. I am happy to publish the 3 honorees and 3 scholarship winners. In no particular order: **Honoree:** Michael Cox, Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society, Scholarship Winner was Melissa Schott Atkins who attends San Jose State. **Honoree:** James May, Kern County Mineral Society, Scholarship Winner was Willow Pilgrim, Studies at UC Santa Barbara. **Honoree:** Dr. George Rossman; his Scholarship Winner was Lillian Randall, Caltech Student.

We will be announcing a CFMS scholarship honoree at the Directors meeting in Visalia. Then the honoree will chose a college and student who qualifies for the scholarship. The Honoree and Scholarship winner are invited to attend the banquet at the CFMS Show & Convention.

Did you know that the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) offers an outstanding scholarship opportunity every year? Better yet, one of your club members has the chance to play a pivotal role in nominating and awarding this scholarship to a deserving student in your community!

This is a fantastic opportunity for us, as a community of rock and mineral enthusiasts, to reach out and make a difference in a student's life. If there's a standout member in your club who has gone above and beyond, whether through volunteer work, board service, or representing CFMS as a federation director, why not honor them with the opportunity to give back?

The process is simple. All you need to do is submit a letter outlining the remarkable contributions of your chosen member (the Honoree) to the club and CFMS. Send the letter to me, Diane Cook, and the CFMS Scholarship Committee will carefully review the submissions. The committee will then select the Honoree who will have the unique privilege of choosing a college student to receive the \$2,000 scholarship.

This scholarship is not just about financial support; it's a way to acknowledge and reward the efforts of individuals who have made a significant impact on our community. It's about fostering a connection between our passionate rockhounding community and the promising minds studying Earth Science.

For those interested, there are guidelines for scholarship recipients, including a focus on Earth Science, Lapidary/Jewelry studies, a minimum GPA of 3.0, and entering their Junior or Senior year. If you have any questions or need more details, feel free to reach out to me at Dianecook.cfms@gmail.com.

Let's come together to celebrate and support the future of Earth Science! Your nominations and participation make a real difference. Looking forward to seeing some nominations from the clubs!



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dick White, nominating committee member

The 2024 CFMS Nominating Committee has been searching for possible nominees for the 2025 CFMS Executive Board. The following are recommended as nominees of the 2025 CFMS Executive Board. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the November CFMS Meeting in Visalia, with the election to follow.

Secretary: Laura Driskell (2010 – present, Member Oxnard Gem and Mineral Society, 2011 - 2017, OGMS Recording Secretary, 2013 - 2019, OGMS Corresponding Secretary, 2018 - present, OGMS Bulletin Editor, Parliamentarian, 2020 - present, OGMS CFMS Federation Director, Parliamentarian)

Treasurer: Incumbent, Bob Papac

2nd Vice President: Frank Van Hecke (2024 CFMS Secretary)

1st Vice President/President-elect: Diane Cook (2024 CFMS 2nd Vice President)

President: Susan Chaisson-Walblom (2024 1st Vice President and Past CFMS President 2012)

Again, additional nominations may be made from the floor at the November CFMS Meeting in Visalia, with the election to follow.

CAMP PARADISE 2025

By Jill Atkins, ESS Co-chair

Never too early to talk about Camp Paradise. This coming year, 2025, the camp dates are August 17-23 and August 24-30. And for those of you who like to plan ahead we have August 17-29 for 2026!

Over the next few months I want to tell you about our instructors and how wonderful they are. This year, with a weeks notice!, Janet Steigerwald stepped up to the plate to be our lapidary instructor. Talk about a dynamo! People who have had experience with lapidary raved about how much more she taught them. And the new students turned out beautiful stones the first time. Her energy and enthusiasm was a joy to behold. The Energizer Bunny has nothing on Janet. Welcome to the team!

Another new Camp Paradise instructor is Pam DeFillipo who teaches enameling. She is another energetic, dedicated and knowledgeable instructor who brings out the best in her students. CFMS is so very fortunate to have these members of the society who volunteer their time and energy to make Camp Paradise a great learning experience.

I hope the Presidents and Directors who are reading the CFMS newsletter are asking their societies to gather (1) 9x13 plastic tub filled with slabs of various MOHS Scale hardness for our lapidary students. Just a reminder to choose slabs that would have excited you when you were cutting your first stone.



IN MEMORIAM

We recently lost two of our CFMS family members known to many of us—Betty Egger and Jeane Stultz. Betty was a long time Camp Paradise instructor who taught enameling and helped students in the lost wax casting area. She was a member of the Amador County GMS and kept busy teaching the lapidary and jewelry arts to her fellow club members at her home. She will be long remembered by those who knew her as always being right there when help was needed. She was awarded the Golden Bear in recognition of her long service to the CFMS Earth Science Studies program in 2015.

Jeane was a past-President of CFMS (1990) and served on many committees. She and her husband Bob were members of the Conejo GMC until they relocated to Redding to be closer to family. She was a member of the Shasta GMS where she remained active until a few years ago. She was especially interested in competitive exhibiting and served at least one term on the Rules Ccommittee. She with Bob were joint Golden Bear Honorees as well as CFMS Scholarship Honorees in recognition of their long service to CFMS.

Submitted by Pat LaRue

TWO EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE AMERICAN FEDERATION

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Endowment Fund – AFMS

Every year at the AFMS Show & Convention items are raffled to raise income for the AFMS Endowment Fund. This fund is drawn upon to support new programs, the Future Rockhounds of America youth program and the free badges it provides to local clubs, judges training for competitive exhibiting, and more. We invite your help and participation. How so?

Make a purchase! Endowment Fund tickets are available for donations of either \$5.00 for one or \$20.00 for five. Please consider purchasing a batch of five for a good cause. And please spread the word to your fellow club members by reprinting this article in your local club newsletter and making announcements at your monthly club meetings.

Make a specimen donation! We invite hobby-related items such as gem, mineral or fossil specimens, metal work projects, jewelry, bead projects, etc. For instance, see the accompanying photo of a pure silver Ventura sand dollar pendant and a silver California live oak pendant that I'm donating for the 2025 raffle. Items should have a minimum value of \$75. We also request a maximum weight of not more than five pounds to keep postage at a minimum if necessary to ship the item to the winning ticket holder. Tickets will be drawn at the 2025 EFMLS-AFMS Show & Convention taking place March 27-31 in Hickory, North Carolina, assuming Hickory hasn't been swept away by the floods of Hurricane Helene!

How to make arrangements to purchase tickets or to donate items? It's easy! Just call (805-659-3577) or email me (jbraceth@roadrunner.com), and/or see me at the CFMS Fall Directors Meeting in Visalia, where I'll come bearing a supply of the raffle tickets. I'm happy to assist.



Jim Brace-Thompson photo

THE ALL AMERICAN CLUB YEARBOOK

By Diane Cook, Chair

2025 - What you need to know about the All American Club Yearbook

IMPORTANT! – A very early deadline for entry into the AFMS contest due to the show being early in 2025. Please send your entry to Diane Cook @ DianeCook.cfms@gmail.com by **January 13, 2025**. Your book will be judged at CFMS and then automatically be passed up to the AFMS for judging. This is for your club's activity in 2024.

The All American Club Award is given to the individual club Yearbook, highlighting a club's activities for the past year, including group activities, individual member participation, workshops and shows. Credit is given for attendance at regional and national shows, participation at meetings, holding officer positions on various committees, writing to state representatives, and involvement in ALAA - all these activities reflect an active club that makes membership worthwhile for everyone. The AACA awards are recognition of these activities, with bronze, silver and gold levels and an overall 1st place gold award.

Take a look at what your club has accomplished this past year, and give credit where credit is due!. The more members contribute to the yearbook, the more completely it can serve as an historical document for the club, as well as an excellent tool to encourage prospective members. Canvassing members for any missing documentation, letters, flyers or other materials to fill in some gaps just might make the difference between a good club and a great Club Yearbook entry.

Take advantage of the guide that is on the AFMS site written by John Washburn. "An All American Club Yearbook: A Guide for Preparation." This gives an explanation of each section, and what judges look for in rating the entries. It also highlights areas that are usually the weakest for many clubs and offers suggestions to improve those areas, as well as hints and tips for organizing the book.

Remember – you can get credit for activities such as participation in Competitive Displays, Junior activities, and for club members volunteering as Judges for AFMS contests.

PDF entries are welcome as it saves a lot in postage. Page limit is 150 single pages for the pdf, and 100 double sided pages if printed.

CFMS CLUBS & SOCIETIES: GIVE ME A JOB—PLEASE!

By Jim Brace-Thompson, Rules Committee

This year Pat LaRue had a herculean task before her as CFMS Rules Committee Chair: assembling judges to evaluate 55 competitive exhibits not just once, but twice. First at the CFMS level, then at the AFMS level. And then she had to organize the results overnight for presentation the very next day at the combined CFMS/AFMS Awards Banquet. I don't know that everyone fully realizes the debt of gratitude we all owe her for successfully navigating a job that normally sees a mere fraction of that many entries being evaluated at just one level. We were blessed to have her experience and leadership!

For 2025, I'll be moving up to chair the Rules Committee, and Pat's shoes are tough to fill. But will I even be given the opportunity to fill them? As I write these words, no local society has stepped up to the plate to host a 2025 CFMS Show and Convention. Until one does, I'm pretty much stuck. With no show date or venue, I can't issue calls for exhibitors, much less post pertinent paperwork like Exhibitor Application forms with due dates and other show info.

Over the course of my long, happy career within CFMS, I've enjoyed serving on no fewer than seven federation show committees, both as part of a hosting club and as part of a rag-tag crew pulling together no-host shows. It's not that hard to do! Will 2025 go down in history as the only year CFMS has not held a show and convention aside from the World War II and COVID years? I sure hope not. As the head of the 2025 Rules Committee charged with assembling and evaluating competitive exhibits, give me a job—please!

Editors note: Thank you for the compliments. Despite the challenges presented, the job got done with a minimum of confusion and the help of my fellow committee members.

Like Jim, I've done my share of federation shows, as a co-chair of two hosted shows and a committee member of three no-host shows. The shows are not that difficult to put on and you have the assistance of a CFMS show coordinator who will offer guidance as needed. By the way the two shows for which I served as co-chair were hosted by a gold prospecting club which had no show experience. If a prospecting club could do it, surely a traditional gem & mineral club can.

THIS SPACE IS FOR YOU!!

2024-25 CFMS

SHOW DATES

Shows and Events

*Sponsored by
CFMS Clubs & Societies!*

*Please submit your
Show or Event as soon as possible
to receive maximum advertising value!*

*Email to:
SHOW DATES*

*Use the Online Show Form
at www.cfmsinc.org
(click on Shows)*

*You should receive a confirmation
within 5 days after submitting your
Show Date information!*

**CLUB/SOCIETY SHOWS
ARE LISTED HERE**

2024

October 19, 2024 – West Hills, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman
Way, Woodland Hills, CA
Hours: 10-5
Contact: barnettecelia53@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.rockchippers.org>

October 19-20, 2024 – Santa Rosa, CA
Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (707) 849-9551, coons@sonic.net
Website: <http://SRMGS.org>

October 26, 2024 – Lake Elsinore, CA
Lake Elsinore Gem & Mineral Society
32097 Corydon Rd., Lake Elsinore, CA
Hours: 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: berylman50@aol.com

October 26, 2024 – Laguna Hills, CA
South Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
Laguna Hills Community Center, 25555 Alicia
Parkway, Laguna Hills, CA 926536
Hours: Sat 10-2
Contacted dupuy@me.com
Website: <http://socgems.com>

October 26-27, 2024 – Sacramento, CA
Sacramento Mineral Society
Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street,
Sacramento, CA 95819
Hours: sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (916) 662-5819,
gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org
Website: <http://sacgemshow.com>

October 26-27, 2024 – Orange, CA
American Opal Society
Velvet Rose Event Center, 300 Flower St.,
Orange, CA
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5
Contact: (714) 501-9959,
info@opalsociety.org
Website: <http://opalsociety.org>

November 2-3, 2024 – Concord, CA
Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society
Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd,
Concord, CA 94521
Hours: sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: show@ccmgclub.com
Website:
<http://www.ccmgclub.com/show>

November 2-3, 2024 – San Diego, CA
San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600
Laning Road, San Diego, CA 92106
Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4
Contact: Benton.luannz@gmail.com
Website: <https://bit.ly/gemdiego2024>

November 2-3, 2024 – Ridgecrest, CA
Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society
Indian Wells Valley 68th Annual Gem and
Mineral Show
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S.
Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Hours: 9-5 both days
Contact (760) 382-2967,
miglogonzal@hotmail.com

2025

January 18-19, 2025 – Exeter, CA
Tule Gem and Mineral Society
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 246
Chestnut St., Exeter, CA 93211
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: bandgbing@aol.com
Website: <http://tulegem.com>

February 15-16, 2024 – Antioch, CA
Antioch Lapidary Society
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201
West 10th Street, Antioch CA 94509
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Website: <http://antiochlapidaryclub.com>

March 1-2, 2025- Ventura, CA
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor
Blvd., Ventura, CA 93003
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 7-9, 2025 - /Stoddard Wells, CA
Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club
I-15 toward Barstow. Exit #157, stay on
Stoddard Wells Road. Follow the signs 7 miles
to tailgate
Contact: (831) 406-0214,
president@vvgmc.org
Website: <http://vvgms.org>

April 12-13, 2025 - Mariposa CA
Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5007
Fairgrounds Rd., Mariposa, CA 95338
Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4
Contact: mgmc@sti.net
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 12-13, 2024 – Placerville, CA
El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds, Placerville,
CA
Hours: Sat & Sun 10 AM -5 PM
Contact: (530) 676-2472
Website: <http://edcmgs.org>

**National/Regional
Shows:**

California Federation TBD

***Eastern Federation/AFMS
Hickory, NC
March 27-30, 2025***

***Midwest Federation
April 5-6, 2025
Lincoln, NE***

***Northwest Federation
Walla Walla, WA
Sept. 12-14, 2025***

***Rocky Mountain Federation
October 25-27, 2024
Oklahoma City, OK***

*South Central Federation
November 23-24, 2024
Mesquite, TX*

*Southeast Federation
TBD*

**DON'T FORGET TO UP-DATE YOUR
CLUB WEBSITE WITH YOUR NEW
SHOW DATE**

**Check for show links at
www.cfmsinc.org/shows**

REMINDER

Advertise your Show in as many Free locations as possible!

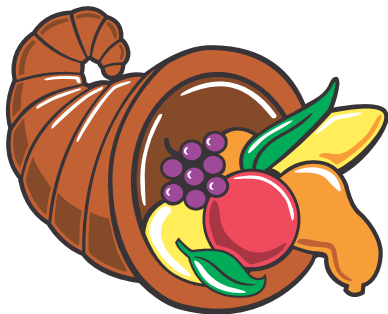
- Local newspapers
- Current events sections!
- Local TV stations,
- Community calendars!
- Other Local Shows

Advertise your shows in the *Rock & Gem Magazine!*

**[www.rockngem.com/
showdate-submissions/](http://www.rockngem.com/showdate-submissions/)**

Send the information in early so it's published in

the magazine as well as online.



**Appreciating a Blast-from-the-Past:
Practicing Public Relations All Year Long**

By Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Public Relations

In future articles, I'll turn to our current media age and the need to fully embrace social media in pursuing effective public relations campaigns. But this month, I'll again return to a "blast-from-the-past" and embrace Francis Sick's advice from the "old school" days. Fran was our AFMS Public Relations Chair from 2007 to 2011, and she was our last PR Chair to religiously provide advice month after month within these pages. I encourage you to read her super-helpful columns in our AFMS Newsletter archives at <https://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm>. Fran suggested more than a decade ago that we need to practice public relations all year long: As she said, "One weekend a year doesn't do it."

All too often, clubs do a one-time, one-year blitz focused on publicizing an annual show for something like a one- to three-month period and then go dormant for the next nine to eleven months. But public relations needs to be an ongoing all-year process, not a one-time event focused on a one-time activity. As Fran wrote back in 2008, "successful clubs are doing everything they can to make themselves known and appreciated in their communities. They make use of any public forum available to them."

In my own local community, we have a free biweekly newspaper and a free monthly publication that both whole-heartedly publicize events sponsored by clubs, societies, and other groups that merely need contacting to be included. The "merely" is the important part of that last sentence.

Do you have someone in your club enlisted to "merely" provide such info? It's not that hard. You just find out the required deadline and where to send info about an upcoming club meeting, tailgate, field trip, show, or other event, and you send a simple announcement that often involves no more than a sentence or two. For instance, "The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society holds its monthly meeting on March 22, when we will host an exciting speaker telling us about dinosaur digs in Wyoming and an exciting field trip opportunity for this coming summer. Join us at 7:30 PM at Poinsettia Pavilion!" This is easy "old school" stuff that all too many clubs neglect, including my own. Just like many rock clubs, local newspapers are a dying breed. Let's interact, support, and help one another live long and prosper!

As Fran wrote back in 2009, “Give more detailed information about what we offer. Don’t just advertise the club show. Make all your club events sound so exciting that people can’t wait to come. Don’t just mention the club has a workshop. Emphasize that expert instructors make it possible for anyone and everyone to learn to make their own quality jewelry at the very reasonable cost of basic membership. Whatever your club is doing that you love, others will love as well if only they know enough about it to encourage them to come in the first place.”

Speaking of supporting and helping one another...Rather than me telling you what public relations is and how to do it, last month, I invited your thoughts and comments on how your club or regional federation defines PR and what you do to implement all that’s associated with that definition. As of this writing, I have yet to receive a single response. I welcome ideas large and small. Please send your thoughts to me via snail-mail, e-mail, or phone: 7319 Eisenhower Street, Ventura, CA 93003, jbraceth@roadrunner.com, (805) 659-3577. I look forward to receiving suggestions, reflections, and ideas from those who matter most, namely, you! Whether a blast-from-the past or an idea that will lead us into the future, your thoughts and suggestions are needed and welcomed!

From *AFMS Newsletter*, 5/23

THE ART OF BEING THE MEANINGFUL HISTORIAN

Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian

As Historians, you have a meaningful job and are a great value to your organization. You are the keepers of all things memorable and significant. You are the storytellers of the past, for today, and the storytellers for the future generations of historians who will be thumbing through your files to celebrate the joys of the earth sciences, and the practice of lapidary arts and crafts. Think of your file boxes as gift boxes given to you, and the gift boxes you are creating to give to the future of our hobby someday.

I thought this might be a good time to begin talking to you about the many ways you can take care of your society and federation historian files. Over the many years there have been society, federation and AFMS historians. Lots of boxes and even metal cabinets have

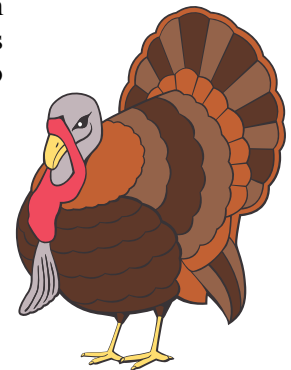
been passed from one historian to another over generations of time.

This accumulation of so much history can produce a sense of anxiety and a quandary of wondering how to manage not only the space to hold the material, but how to protect it and how to find what you are looking for. Some have asked if it’s even valuable enough to hold onto so much accumulated material. Especially for federations and the AFMS, transporting all the files from a retiring historian to someone new can pose a problem due to the vast traveling distances within their territory. There aren’t any hard-set rules of how to go about this, unless your society or federation states them. You or your society may have piles of file boxes that haven’t been looked at in ages. You might be wondering what condition they are in at this point and thinking, what on earth should be done with them. I am here to offer some good pointers and some creative ideas to help you out.

There are so many treasures in those boxes when you are able to find them. Maybe not 100% that you might find personally interesting, but gems in the figurative sense and literally to inspire your members today. As historians, you are usually the backup for storing copies of your organization’s business meeting minutes and reports. You also have the special job of keeping copies of your organization’s newsletters, photos and news clippings of the year’s events and sometimes storing mementos. You are the person members will say at some time or another, “thank you so much for keeping the good memories and for remembering us.”

There are different aspects of being a historian. There are various choices available to you about how you can take care of your files, along with ideas to make finding things in the future easier for you. Some organizations are digitizing their files, but if that’s not your cup of tea right now, that’s alright too. Stick with me over the next few months, and in between other historian articles for the AFMS, we’ll go through those boxes together.

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This space is for you!!
Who will step up to the plate?**